

REVENUE

(195 ") Department.

NO. SERIES.

G.O. No. 1393

Dated 11th June '48.

[Despatch Abstract.]

irrigation--Kudinaranath--Korambu System--orders passed.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
Abstract.

Irrigation--Kudimaramath--Korambu System--Orders passed.

REVENUE DEPARTMENT.

G.O.Ms.No.1393

dated/11.6.48.
Read the following.

B.M. to the Board of Revenue No.2405 H/47-1, Revenue,
dated 25.4.1947.
Petition from the Secretary, Town Congress Committee,
Narasannapeta, dated 5.7.1947.
From the Board of Revenue, Ref.No.G.2003/47-3,
dated/4.9.1947.
From the Board of Revenue, Res. Rt. No.7062/47,
dated/6.12.1947.

ORDER:

The Government have examined the question of retention or abolition of the Korambu system of Kudimaramath work prevalent in certain districts. The Korambu system consists of the removal of silt in channel heads in and of the cross-bunding of rivers, rivers/with a view to ensure proper supply of water in river channels. While the Government have no objection to treating the removal of silt in channel heads in rivers as part of Kudimaramath work, they consider that the ryots should not be expected to attend to the corss-bunding of rivers as part of Kudimaramath-work. They accordingly direct that with effect from 1948-49 the cross-bunding of rivers should not be treated as part of Kudimaramath work and that a cess should not be levied on ryots in lieu of this work, under the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858. The Board of Revenue is requested to issue instructions to the Collectors concerned accordingly.

(By Order of His Excellency the Governor)

(Sd.) X X
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To the Board of Revenue.
To the Accountant General, through Finance.
To the Public Works Department.
Copy to Sri K.A. Suryanarayana, Secretary,
Town Congress Committee, Narasannapeta, Vizaga Dt.,

/True Copy/


OFFICE ASSISTANT
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.

C.N.V.
4.1.54.

To Assistant Secretary.

This file deals with the question of retaining or abolishing what is known as the "Korambu system". This system is described in para 2 of the letter of the Collector of Vizagapatam on page 5 c.f. It will be observed therefrom that the Korambu system comprises.

- (1) removing silt in channel heads in rivers and
- (2) cross bunding rivers.

This system is intended to ensure proper supply of water in river channels. The work involved is usually attended to by the ayacutdars by common labour. The system is in force in Vizagapatam, Nellore, Tanjore, Trichinopoly and some other districts. The Board of Revenue is in favour of retaining this system on the ground that the burden of charge on each ayacutdar is not heavy and that the work, if taken up by the Public Works Department will lead to delay, higher cost and lesser efficiency. Honourable Minister (Land Revenue) has ordered that the matter may be considered along with the Irrigation Bill.

2. At present the enforcement of Kudimaramath work is done under the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858. Under Section 6 of the Act, if any. Kudimaramath work is not carried out by the ayacutdars, the work can be carried out by the Government and the cost recovered from the ayacutdars. The defect of the present Act however, is that it does not enumerate the items of work that constitute 'Kudimaramath work'. Custom has to be proved before the Act can be applied to any particular item of work. In the Vizagapatam District, the Act appears to have been applied to Korambu works on the ground that the ryots undertook to do the works at the time of the original Settlement.

3. With the enactment of the Irrigation Bill, the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, 1858 will be repealed. Chapters IX and X of the Irrigation Bill incorporate in themselves, the provision of the Compulsory Labour Act with certain modifications. Chapter X deals with 'Kudimaramath work' proper. This chapter aims at removing the defect referred to at 'A' above by enumerating the items of Kudimaramath work. This Chapter as drafted by the Board has been re-cast by the Special Officer. The chapter as recast by the Special Officer is at page 5-8 of (4) and has been accepted by Honourable Minister (Land Revenue) and Honourable Minister (Public Works) subject to re-examination of clauses 60 and 71 at the Select Committee stage. It will be observed from clauses 68(1)(a) and 69(1)(d) of chapter X as recast by the Special Officer that the removing of silt in channel heads in rivers can be brought under the provisions of that Chapter ~~XXXXXX~~ and the carrying out of such work by the ayacutdars can be enforced by the Government. But the other part of the Korambu system, viz., the cross-bunding of rivers is not enumerated under clause 69. If the Korambu system as it exists at present has to be enforced against the ayacutdars the following alternatives have to be adopted:-

(1) The cross-bunding of rivers has to be added as a new item under clause 69, or

(2) The work has to be declared as Kudimaramath work after enquiry in any locality, under clause 69(1)(h).

As.....

As the Board of Revenue is definitely in favour of retaining the Korambu system, it is for orders whether this Department may support alternative (1). The remarks of Public Works, Finance and Legal may be invited before circulation.

(Public Works)

Assistant Secretary 2.

Please see Revenue Department notes given page 11 ante. Soon after the assumption of office by the Congress ministry in April 1946, instructions were issued in pursuance of the Grow More Food campaign, that repairs to ~~Indian~~ works should be done at Government cost irrespective of Kudimaramath liability, where irrigation had materially suffered and where there was likely to be an appreciable increase in the production of food by the execution of such repairs. This procedure is being adopted at present and the Government are now considering the question of taking over all such works permanently and levying a small charge from the ayacutdars, in view of Kudimaramath liability. The Board of Revenue has provided necessary powers for such a levy in cl.75(1) of the Draft Irrigation Bill. It is proposed to make an experiment of the above proposal in the Coimbatore District. The final remarks of the Board of ~~XXX~~ Revenue are awaited in the matter.

In this file, the question of retaining or abolishing the Korambu system as Kudimaramath liability has been taken up along with the draft Irrigation Bill. Revenue Department propose to provide a suitable sub-clause in the explanation to Kudimaramath works" so as to include 'Korambu' also under that category. In the circumstances stated at page 11-12 ante, this department may perhaps, agree with Revenue for the inclusion of korambu system under Kudimaramath liabilities until the policy of Government in regard to execution of Kudimaramath works is otherwise decided.

The file may be passed on to Finance Department.

(Sd.)

Finance (Acad-A) Dept.,

(Previous Finance note at page 10 above)

Please see the notes from page 11 above.

Finance also may agree to the proposal of Revenue at X at the foot of page 12 above.

(Sd.)

Legal Department
There is no legal objection to the proposal of Revenue at X on page 12 ante. The question is one of policy.

(Sd.)

Finance 184D3

Revenue...

Revenue Department.

To Assistant Secretary

Please see the notes from page 11 ante. For Orders whether the proposal of this Department at 'X' on page 12 ante will be accepted. Public Works Finance and Legal have agreed to it.

(With regard to 'M' on page 13 ante, / Legal No. 3554c/48 / Public Works Department will no doubt, suggest suitable amendments to the Irrigation Bill, if and when necessary. No action is necessary now)

(Sd.)

Honourable (Land Revenue) Honourable (Public Works)

Honourable Premier.

That the cross bunding of rivers through Loramba be done by the ryots, when they are forced to pay the Double wet crop rates, is inequitous and unjust. I think that this has got to go.

(Sd.)

Revenue Department.

To Assistant Secretary.

Please see the notes from page 11 ante.

2. Honourable Minister (Land Revenue) has minuted to the effect that the ryots should not be required to attend to the cross-bundling of rivers as ~~XXX~~ part of Kudimaramath work. It will be observed from 'A' on page 42 ante, that the items of Kudimaramath work contemplated by the Irrigation Bill do not include the cross-bundling of rivers. No amendment to the Irrigation Bill is, therefore, necessary to give effect to the orders in circulation. When the Irrigation Bill is passed into law, ryots will not be required to attend to the cross-bundling of rivers as part of Kudimaramath work.

3. On page 11 ante, Honourable Minister (Land Revenue) minuted that the question of retention or abolition of the korambu system, which consists of the removal of silt in channel heads in rivers and the cross-bundling of rivers should be considered along with the Irrigation Bill. The present orders in circulation are that the latter part of the korambu system, viz., the cross-bundling of rivers should be abolished. A draft order in order to give effect to the orders in circulation, is submitted for approval.

4. It was already decided that the collection of the korambu cess for 1946-47 need not be postponed. The year 1947-48 is also over and the orders in circulation do not seem to contemplate retrospective effect. Subject to order it has therefore been provided in the draft order that the order will take effect only from 1948-49.

5. Finance may perhaps see the draft order before issue.

(Sd.)

Finance...

Finance (AA)

(Previous Finance note at page 13-14 above)

Please see the orders in circulation and the notes on page on 14-15, above. The draft order below may be accepted. The extra expenditure to the Government in having to do the corresponding in future without any cess is not known. Honourable Minister Finance also may see.

(Sd.)

I do not know whether "inequitions" in the draft is a slip for " iniquitions" or for "inequitable". The former is probably too Strong a word as it almost means "wicked". The draft may perhaps read".....they consider that the ryots should not be expected to attend to the cross-bunding of rivers as part of Kudimaramath work".

(Sd.)

T.N.S.R. 27.548

Finance U.O.39778

Revenue Department

To Assistant Secretary.

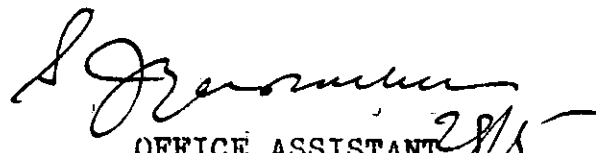
Please see the notes from page 15 ante.

2. The draft order has been amended as suggested by Finance Secretary at 'X' above. The draft order, as amended, may issue.

(Sd.)

Honourable Minister(Land
Revenue)

Honourable Minister (Finance.)


OFFICE ASSISTANT
MADRAS RECORD OFFICE.
27/5/54

C.N.V.
4.1.54.